**Robbins, Joanne**

**From:** Tom Kelly (KyotoUSA) [kyotousa@sbcglobal.net]
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2009 4:26 PM
**To:** 'Tom Kelly (KyotoUSA)'
**Subject:** seeking your support for SB 363 - solar schools
**Attachments:** SB 363 Fact sheet-1.doc; SB 363 support letter template.doc

Dear Friends,

I am writing to seek your support – and that of your various networks – for **SB 363** (Hancock), a bill that will create a low interest loan fund for the installation of solar panels on the state's public schools.

In a nutshell: the bill would appropriate moneys that have accumulated from a settlement between the State of California and the Williams Energy Company (and others). The State brought suit against Williams and others for overcharging California on electricity contracts during the energy crisis of 2000-01. The parties settled before trial. A portion of the settlement ($50M) was intended to be used for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems for public schools and other public buildings. That initial settlement has grown to approximately $69M in value. Senator Hancock's bill would make that money available to public school districts in the form of very low interest loans.

I've attached a template for the letter of support (feel free to modify) and a fact sheet on SB 363. You can read the current text and leg digest of SB 363 here.

Should you decide to support this bill, your letter should be mailed or faxed to Senator Hancock's office right away. She needs them by April 22. Here's her contact info:

**Senator Loni Hancock, District 9**
**State Capitol, Room 3092**
**Sacramento, CA 95814**
**Fax: 916-327-1997**

The first hearing on the bill is coming up on April 27 in the Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee (Padilla, chair). This is an incredible opportunity to help our schools reduce their costs and free them from their use of electricity produced primarily by fossil fuels. Your letter can make a real difference. Please let me know if you have questions and if you will support the legislation. 'Hope all is going well with you. All the best!

Tom

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(KyotoUSA is a sponsored project of the Sequoia Foundation)

# SB 363 (Hancock)
# Solar Schools

## PURPOSE OF THE BILL

This bill directs moneys and interest generated by the energy settlement agreement between the State of California and The Williams Companies, Inc. and Williams Energy Marketing & Trading Company, designated for energy efficiency retrofit of schools and public buildings, to be deposited into the State Energy Conservation Assistance Account for the purposes of providing loans to schools for the installation of solar energy systems.

## PROBLEM & NEED FOR THE BILL

Public schools have shown a heightened interest in reducing their operating costs by cutting their energy expenses. Hundreds of school districts, representing the majority of California's K-12 schools, often do not have the upfront capital and human resources to take advantage of the rebates and low cost financing that make these efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems affordable.

## WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

This bill is intended to make the purchase and installation of photovoltaic systems cost-neutral for school districts by making loans at an interest rate no higher than 1.5% available to school districts using moneys and interest generated by the energy settlement agreement between the State of California and The Williams Companies, Inc. and Williams Energy Marketing & Trading Company, received for energy efficiency retrofit of schools. Williams Energy Settlement funds will be deposited in the State Energy Conservation Assistance Account and the program will be administered by California Energy Commission. School districts can purchase photovoltaic systems up to one megawatt per year and finance the purchase through low interest loans available to school districts. The payment made for any loan is made from the avoided electricity costs as a result of PV systems. WES funds would be available to public school districts regardless of other funds a district may be eligible for.

## SUPPORT

Kyoto USA
C.A.S.H

## OPPOSITION

## BILL STATUS

Amended April 1, 2009 and first Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications committee hearing on April 21, 2009

## KEY CONTACTS

Sue Vang
Senator Loni Hancock's Office
916-651-4009
sue.vang@sen.ca.gov

(DATE)

Senator Loni Hancock
State Capitol Room 3092
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 363 (Hancock)—Support

Dear Senator Hancock:

(Organization name & information)…wish to inform you of our support for SB 363.

As a (local, regional, national) organization that encourages the implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems (**or describe what you do or about your concerns that are relevant to SB 363**), we view this legislation as an important step towards increasing the amount of electricity generated from local, renewable sources and reducing the ever increasing electricity costs that are burdening our schools. The bill also makes it possible for school districts to overcome a major hurdle to solar installations on schools, namely the upfront capital costs. The low-cost loans provided to school districts will enable the Districts to pay for the PV systems with the money saved on their electricity bills.

The money that will fund this loan program does not come from California taxpayers or electricity rate payers, but rather from the Williams Energy Settlement. The Settlement, reached in 2002 with the Attorney General's office, directed that funds from this Settlement be used specifically for renewable energy systems and other energy efficiency improvements to benefit the state's public schools and other public buildings.

For the above reasons, (Organization) supports SB 363 and urges your 'aye' vote and that of your Senate and Assembly colleagues. If you have any further questions, please contact…

Sincerely,